

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (New): A rope hook comprising:

a body including a pair of substantially hook shaped rope catches;
an off-the-hook limiting lever pivotally connected at its base by a pivotal fulcrum to the body of a part other than a tip portion of the rope catch so as to pivot from a closed position in which an end portion of the lever bears against an inside surface of the tip to close an opening defined between the end portion and the tip to an open position in which the end portion is spaced from the tip;

a spring configured to urge the lever to pivot to a closed position;

a spring configured to provide clearances allowing lateral displacement of the lever in a direction perpendicular to the pivotal movement of the lever within a predetermined range and to urge the lever laterally to their locked position; and

stopper means for preventing the pivotal movement of the lever toward one open position only when the off-the-hook limiting levers are positioned in their locked position.

Claim 15 (New): The rope hook according to claim 14, wherein the stopper means includes a surface portion of the body defined beside a lever support to which the lever is to be pivotally connected at its base and a portion of the base of the lever.

Claim 16 (New): The rope hook according to claim 14, wherein the stopper means includes a locking claw formed on the tip of the rope catch and a locking protrusion formed on the end portion of the lever.

Claim 17 (New): The rope hook according to claim 16, wherein a predetermined amount of clearance or margin allowing lateral swing of the lever to disengage the locking protrusion with the locking claw is provided at the pivotal fulcrum of the lever.

Claim 18 (New): The rope hook according to claim 14, wherein the spring configured to urge the lever to the closed position and the spring configured to urge the lever to its locked position are combined to form an integral spring.

Claim 19 (New): The rope hook according to claim 18, wherein the integral spring includes coils and side arms extending from an end of each coils and is a complex spring made of one wire rod of spring material, the arms are configured to urge the lever toward the closed position, and the coils are configured to urge the lever to the locked position.

Claim 20 (New): A rope hook comprising:
a body including a pair of substantially hook shaped rope catches;
an off-the-hook limiting lever pivotally connected at its base by a pivotal fulcrum to the body of a part other than a tip portion of the rope catch so as to pivot from a closed position in which end portions of the lever bear against an inside surface of the tip to close an opening defined between the end portion and the tip to an open position in which the end portions are spaced from the tips;
a spring configured to urge the lever to pivot it to the closed position;
a spring configured to provide clearances allowing displacement of the lever in a direction perpendicular to the pivotal movement of the lever within a predetermined range and to urge the lever laterally to its locked position; and

stopper means configured to prevent the pivotal movement of the lever toward the open position only when the off-the-hook limiting levers are positioned in their locked position.

Claim 21 (New): The rope hook according to claim 20, wherein the stopper means includes a locking claw formed on the tip of the rope catch and a locking protrusion formed on the end portion of the lever.

Claim 22 (New): The rope hook according to claim 21, wherein a predetermined amount of clearance or margin allowing swing of the lever to disengage the locking protrusion with the locking claw is provided at the pivotal fulcrum of the lever.

Claim 23 (New): The rope hook according to claim 20, wherein the spring configured to urge the lever to the closed position and the spring configured to urge the lever to its locked position are combined to form an integral spring.

Claim 24 (New): The rope hook according to claim 23, wherein the integral spring includes coils and side arms extending from an end of each coil and is a complex spring made of one wire rod of spring material, the arms are configured to urge the lever toward the closed position and the coils are configured to urge the lever to the locked position.

Claim 25 (New): The rope hook according to claim 24, further comprising means for compressing the coil of the spring to urge the lever to the locked position.

Claim 26 (New): The rope hook according to claim 25, wherein which the means for compressing the coil is formed by an inclined portion provided in either of the body or the lever to which the coils are urged.